

# USDA Community Food Security Initiative



## What We're Doing

Seeking to cut hunger in America in half by the year 2015, the USDA Community Food Security Initiative is creating and expanding grass-roots partnerships that build local food systems and reduce hunger.

## How We're Doing It

USDA is joining with States, municipalities, non-profit groups, and the private sector to strengthen local food systems by replicating best practices of existing efforts and by catalyzing new community commitments to fight hunger.

## Goals We're Targeting

- 1) Creating new—and enhancing existing—**local infrastructures** to reduce hunger and food insecurity
- 2) Increasing **economic and job security** by helping low-income people obtain living wage jobs and attain self-sufficiency
- 3) Strengthening the **Federal nutrition assistance safety net** by supporting the full and efficient use of programs such as food stamps, WIC, school meals, summer feeding, and TEFAP
- 4) Bolstering **supplemental food provided by nonprofit groups** by aiding food recovery, gleaning, and food donation programs

5) Improving community **food production and marketing** by aiding projects that grow, process, and distribute food locally

6) Boosting **education and awareness** by increasing efforts to inform the public about nutrition, food safety, and food security

7) Improving **research, monitoring, and evaluation** efforts to help communities assess and strengthen food security

## Methods We're Using

Catalyzing the development of new **partnerships** on the local, State, and Federal levels to help communities reduce hunger.

Improving the **coordination** between existing USDA programs—such as nutrition assistance programs, community food grants, ongoing research, farmers' markets, and food recovery projects—and related Federal, State, and community initiatives.

Expanding **technical assistance** to States, communities, and nonprofit groups to build long-term local structures to increase food security.

Increasing **public awareness** of the causes of food insecurity and highlighting innovative community solutions to hunger.

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[www.reeusda.gov/food\\_security/foodshp.htm](http://www.reeusda.gov/food_security/foodshp.htm)

## Local Infrastructure and Policy Coordination



- A. Creating a State, Tribal, or local food policy council, committee, or task force
- B. Designating one State, city, tribal, or county department as the lead agency for Community Food Security
- C. Signing an executive order or passing a legislative resolution on Community Food Security
- D. Creating grant programs to support local community food security projects
- E. Sponsoring State, tribal, or local Summits on community food security

## Economic and Job Security



- A. Ensuring full utilization of Food Stamps Employment and Training Funds and other welfare-to-work programs
- B. Creating or expanding training and placement programs targeted to low-income individuals and families
- C. Providing funding for Community Kitchens or other programs that combine food recovery with job training
- D. Creating or expanding financial management training provided to low-income individuals and families
- E. Creating new, or assisting existing, Individual Development Account (IDA) assets development projects
- F. Increasing the number of working families who use the Earned Income Tax Credit

## Nutrition Assistance Safety Net



- A. Implementing public education campaigns to increase participation in the Food Stamp Program
- B. Expanding participation of eligible women and children in the WIC program
- C. Expanding participation in the School Lunch and School breakfast Programs
- D. Increasing the number of children receiving meals through the Summer Food Service Program
- E. Utilizing USDA's new program to increase the number of schools and nonprofit groups that provide afterschool snacks

# Key Elements of Community Food Security



Increase economic and job security

Boost education and awareness

Enhance local infrastructures

Boost food recovery and donations

Aid community food production and marketing

Improve research, monitoring, and evaluation efforts

Bolster Federal nutrition assistance safety net

## Supplemental Food Provided by Nonprofit Groups



- A. Implementing plans to increase donations to food banks and food rescue groups
- B. Starting or expanding government grant programs for nonprofit groups that collect and distribute food
- C. Increasing the percentage of administrative funds used for food recovery and gleaning from The Emergency food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- D. Increasing the donation of surplus food from government programs and food service operations
- E. Starting or expanding programs to expand the donation of surplus produce

## Community Food Production and Marketing



- A. Starting or expanding community gardens and farms, and community-supported agriculture projects
- B. Starting or expanding farmers' markets and other forms of direct farmer marketing
- C. Initiating or expanding participation in the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
- D. Helping schools purchase food directly from local farmers

## Education and Awareness



- A. Implementing plans to increase awareness of community food security problems and solutions
- B. Increasing participation in the Food Stamps Nutrition Education Program, the Expanded Food and Nutrition education program (EFNEP), and other nutrition education and food safety programs

## Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation



- A. Sponsoring detailed State and local studies of household food insecurity
- B. Mapping State and local food security-related resources

*Make a*

*commitment to*

*build your community's*

*local food system*

*and fight hunger*

# Toward a Food-Secure America: An Interactive Continuum of Community Food Security Goals and Activities

**{Upward Arrows on Left  
Show Optimal Movement  
Of Families and Communities  
Towards Self-Sufficient  
Food Security}**

**{Downward Arrows on Right  
Show Necessary Safety Net  
For Families and Communities  
Not Yet Obtaining Full  
Food Security}**

In fully food-secure Communities, all families have enough economic and job security and access to community food production and marketing to purchase and obtain enough nutritious food to feed their families.

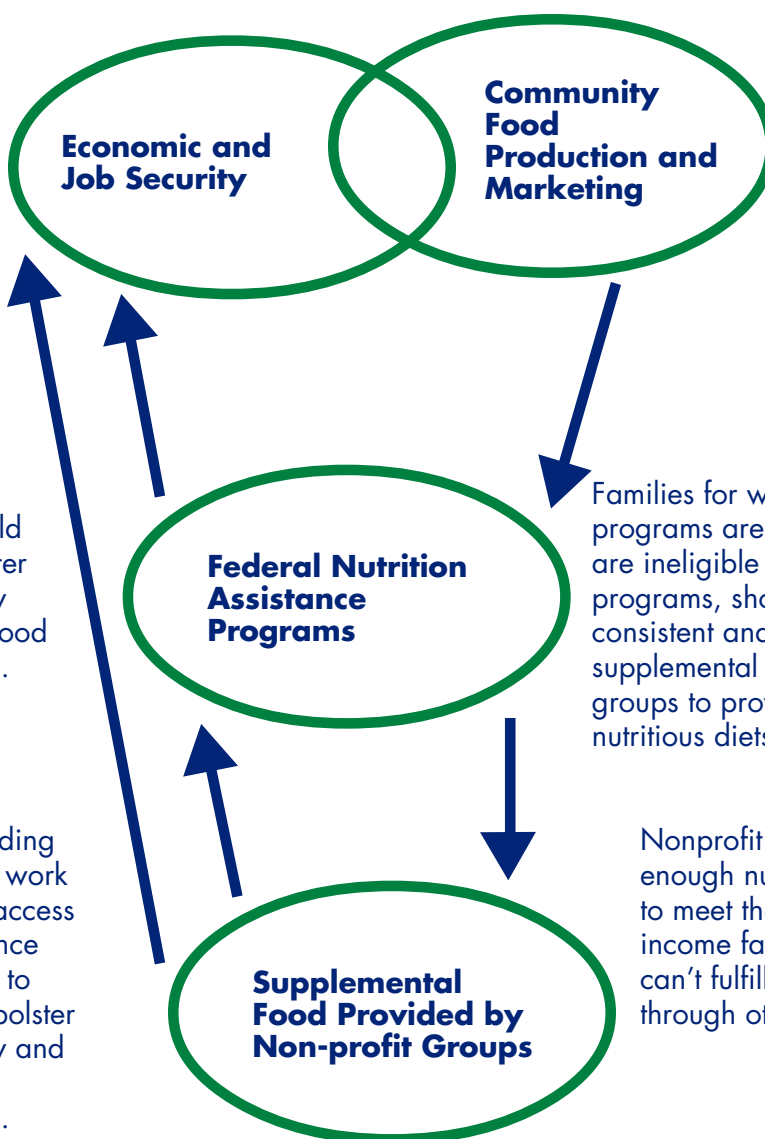
Families that do not have enough economic and job security and enough access to community food production and marketing to purchase and obtain enough nutritious food to feed their families should have access to robust Federal nutrition assistance programs.

All Federal nutrition assistance programs should be tied to efforts that bolster economic and job security and increase community food production and marketing.

Families for whom Federal nutrition programs are not sufficient, or whom are ineligible for the full range of programs, should have enough consistent and dignified access to supplemental food from nonprofit groups to provide balanced and nutritious diets for their families.

All nonprofit groups providing supplemental food should work to help recipient families access Federal nutritional assistance programs, and, ultimately to participate in efforts that bolster economic and job security and increase community food production and marketing.

Nonprofit groups should have enough nutritious food available to meet the full needs of any low income family living in America who can't fulfill all their food needs through other available resources.



**Note: All levels of the continuum should promote education and awareness, including nutrition education, and should utilize up-to-date, user-friendly, research and monitoring tools.**